European & American Judaic Literature
(Subjects in Ethnic Literatures and Cultures)

We begin by analyzing Arthur Schnitzler’s dramatic representation of anti-Semitism, before turning to short stories by Franz Kafka and Stefan Zweig. These European precedents serve as background to our discussions of fiction by American-Jewish writers. Illustrative works by Abe Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Henry Roth, I. B. Singer, Bernard Malamud, Bruce J. Friedman, and Philip Roth center around problems of assimilation, displacements and translations from Yiddish to English, the aftermath of the Holocaust, and flight to the suburbs. The Norton Anthology of American Jewish Literature provides a wide selection of short fiction and poetry. Students will write four short papers followed by revisions.

Abandon all electronic devices, you who enter here!

Texts:

   [This collection contains only stories that were published in Kafka’s lifetime.]
   [Absolutely required, essential textbook]
   [This is the Great American-Jewish Novel.]
   [Satire of American Jews fleeing to the suburbs—pioneers on the new frontier.]

Always do the assigned reading & bring the book (or selection from Blackboard) to class!

Introduction

27 August: Introductions
    Franz Kafka, “Before the Law” and “An Imperial Message”
    (Photocopy and on Blackboard)

29 August
    Delmore Schwartz, “A Bitter Farce” (Photocopy and on Blackboard)
A. European Traditions

3 September
Arthur Schnitzler, *Professor Bernhardi* (Digital file on Blackboard)
Try to imaging the staging: set design, costumes, movement on stage.

5 September: NO CLASS because of Rosh Hashana
Read ahead: finish *Professor Bernhardi* and start Kafka’s “The Metamorphosis”

10 September
Arthur Schnitzler, *Professor Bernhardi* (continued)
Acting selected scenes in class!

12 September
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis,” in *The Metamorphosis, the Penal Colony, and Other Stories*

17 September
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (continued); “A Country Doctor,” “Jackals and Arabs,” “The Cares of a Family Man,” in *The Metamorphosis, the Penal Colony, and Other Stories*

19 September
“A Report to an Academy,” “The Bucket Rider,” “Josephine the Singer, or the Mouse Folk,”
in *The Metamorphosis, the Penal Colony, and Other Stories*

24 September
Stefan Zweig, "Buchmendel" (Digital file on Blackboard)
*Paper #1 due*

B. American Expressions

26 September

1 October
Yente Serdatsky, "Unchanged"; Marie Antin, "The Lie" (NAAJL, 151-54; 191-206).

3 October
Anzia Yezierska, "Children of Loneliness"; Joseph Opatoshu, "Brothers"
Celia Dropkin, “Sonya’s Room” (NAAJL, 234-44; 254-57; 262-64).
8 October

10-17 October
  Henry Roth, *Selections from Call It Sleep*.  
  Film clips from *Hester Street*.  
  *Paper #2 due*

22 October
  A. Leyeles, "New York"; Jacob Glatstein, "Good Night, World" (NAAJL, 356, 373-74)  
  Fradel Shtok, "The Shorn Head"; Irena Klepfisz, "Fradel Shtok" (NAAJL, 291-94, 1083-85).  
  New York Klezmer music from the 1920s.

24 October

29 October
  Tillie Olson, "Tell Me a Riddle"; Saul Bellow, "Something to Remember Me By" (NAAJL 689-715, 749-770).

31 October
  Arthur Miller, "Monte Sant' Angelo" (NAAJL, 559-70)  
  Bernard Malamud, "The Last Mohican" and "The Magic Barrel" (NAAJL, )

5 November
  Philip Roth, "Femme Fatale" (NAAJL, 945-60).  
  *Paper #3 due*

7 November
  Philip Roth, "Eli, the Fanatic"; Woody Allen, "The Scrolls" (NAAJL 918-45, 320-23).

12 November
  Chaim Grade, "My Quarrel with Hersh Rasseyner" (NAAJL, 649-70)

14 November
  Cynthia Ozick, "The Shawl"; "Envy; or, Yiddish in America" (NAAJL, 858-896)

19 November

21 November
  Bruce Jay Friedman, *Stern*.  

3-5 December

Bruce Jay Friedman, Stern.

Paper #4 due

Requirements: Four two-page papers on assigned or approved topics. It is recommended, but not required, that you give a short oral presentation, which may be based on one of your papers. Group projects will involve giving a class presentation or making a short video inspired by one of the stories or authors. Each group must discuss the plans for its project in advance with the instructors.

Grading: Papers and revisions (50%), group project (20%), and participation (30%). Revisions of papers will be due one week after the first drafts are returned. Quizzes and a Final Exam will be added if students do not show in class that they have done the readings conscientiously.

Attendance: Your final grade will be adversely affected if you miss more than two classes. Save these permissible absences for when you need them most! If you miss a class, please don’t e-mail us; ask another student for notes.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university policy. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see the website of the Academic Integrity Office, http://academicintegrity.syr.edu. Related links: http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/faculty-resources/ http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/what-does-academic-integrity-mean/

Many SU courses use Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention system, because the ease of using the Internet has made it tempting for students to “cut and paste” material into papers, without proper citation. We will submit some papers that you write in this class to Turnitin, which identifies “matched text.” Submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. What distinguishes between research & plagiarism? Quotation marks + bibliography!
STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY
We will not hold class on Sept. 5th, because of Rosh Ha-shana. In general, however, SU will not have non-instructional days for any religious holiday during the 2013-2014 academic year. Students must notify instructors by the end of the second week of classes if they will be absent during the semester in order to observe a religious holiday. For more information about SU’s religious observances policy, see http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm.
Under the policy, an online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class. Students are then provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided that they have notified their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. I disagree with some aspects of this policy. [KF]

STATEMENT ON DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:
If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), http://disabilityservices.syr.edu, located at 804 University Avenue, room 309, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities “Accommodation Authorization Letters” as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

IN THIS CLASS WE STUDY TEXTS. “TEXT” IS NOT A VERB!